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PTQ2997

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRFP-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00

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P 011657Z SEP 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1295
RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 002858

E.O. DECL: OADR 5 YEARS FROM DATE
TAGS: PGOV, RW
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FORMER PRIME MINISTER FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU CALLED ME BY PHONE 9/1 AND WE AGREED TO MEET LATER THAT AFTERNOON. HE IS STILL AT HIS STATE HOME WITH REGULAR ARMY SOLDIERS AND NON-COMS PROVIDING HIS SECURITY. HIS STATE MERCEDES 4X4 WAS PARKED INSIDE THE COMPOUND. WE MET ON HIS PORCH, APPARENTLY UNOBSERVED FOR OVER AN HOUR.

3. THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER WENT OVER IN DETAIL THE
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BACKGROUND OF HIS FALLING OUT WITH KAGAME, BEGINNING WITH HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST DECEMBER CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN RWANDA. AT THAT TIME, KAGAME WENT ON THE RADIO CASTIGATING THE PRIME MINISTER AND THEN GAVE HIM A PRIVATE DRESSING DOWN. FROM THAT MOMENT, TWAGIRAMUNGU FELT THAT HE HAD LITTLE ROOM FOR MANEUVER OR INITIATIVE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. NONETHELESS, HE CONTINUED TO PRESS ON ISSUES RELATED TO SECURITY, NATIONAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY THE SUPREME COURT.

4. SINCE THESE MATTERS ISSUES RELATED DIRECTLY TO HUTU INTERESTS AND TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HUTU MINISTERS IN INTERIOR AND JUSTICE, TWAGIRAMUNGU WAS BLAMED FOR LEADING A PRO-HUTU FACTION IN GOVERNMENT. TWAGIRAMUNGU POINTED OUT THE INJURY HE HAD SUFFERED IN HIS FAMILY AND TO HIS PROPERTIES AT THE HANDS OF HUTU. HE WAS NOT PARTISAN FOR THE HUTU CAUSE BUT FOUGHT FOR EQUITY AND SECURITY FOR ALL. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE DOCUMENTATION AND EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF RPF DEPREDATIONS AMONG LOCAL POPULATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO TWAGIRAMUNGU, ETHNICITY, SECURITY, INTRA-PARTY DIVISIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WERE ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED IN SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS AT THE "5TH OF JULY HOTEL" THAT CAME TO AN ABRUPT END LAST FRIDAY G/25. THE SPECIFIC ISSUE WAS THE CLAIM OF INTERIOR MINISTER SENDASHONGA THAT HE HAD SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE NEARLY 700 LETTERS PROTESTING ABUSE OF CITIZENS BY THE RPF, NONE OF WHICH HAD BEEN

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ANSWERED. VICE PRESIDENT KAGAME, BELIEVING THAT HE WAS BEING HELD PERSONALLY TO BLAME FOR SECURITY PROBLEMS IN RWANDA, SAID SENDASHONGA COULD TAKE OVER HIS MINISTRY AND WALKED OUT. THE REST OF THE MINISTERS DECIDED TO RECESS THE MEETING FOR THE WEEKEND. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE RPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET; BY MONDAY MORNING, TWAGIRAMUNGU UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HOLD TOGETHER AND WROTE HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

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6. REFLECTING ON THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID THAT ON TUESDAY THE PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED HIM AND ASKED HIM, AS PRESIDENT OF MDR, TO SUGGEST FOUR NAMES FOR PRIME MINISTER. TWAGIRAMUNGU CONVENED HIS POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND, AFTER AT FIRST REFUSING, THEY AGREED ON FOUR NAMES. THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER, WHILE NOT AT THE TOP OF THE RECOMMENDED LIST, DID FIGURE AMONG THE FOUR NAMES. TWAGIRAMUNGU FELT THE CHOICE OF RWIGEMA AS PRIME MINISTER WAS A GOOD ONE. HE SAID THAT HIS PARTY COMMITTEE HAD NO SAY IN THE DESIGNATION OF OTHER MDR MINISTERS FOR THE POSTS OF MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND MINISTER OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

7. COMMENT. TWAGIRAMUNGU WAS OBVIOUSLY DOWN, DISAPPOINTED IN HIS FAILURE TO BRING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE RWANDAN PEOPLE BUT HE RELAYED THE STORY OF HIS POLITICAL DOWNFALL IN A QUIET ANALYTICAL MANNER. INSPITE OF THE LIBERTIES HE HAS BEEN ALLOWED AND THE SECURITY PROVIDED TO HIM, HE IS STILL CONCERNED FOR HIS LIFE, HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY SOLDIERS THAT HE

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WOULD BE TARGETED IF HE HAD ANOTHER FALLING OUT WITH KAGAME. HE POINTED TO THE MURDER THIS WEEK OF A JUDGE IN BUTARE AND A FINANCIAL OFFICER OF OCIR TEA IN KIGALI AS EVIDENCE THAT NO ONE IS SAFE IN THE CURRENT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT.

8. I RECOUNTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE ASSURANCES WE HAD RECEIVED FROM SECURITY SERVICES AND FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT REGARDING HIS SAFETY. THANKING HIM FOR THE GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WE HAD ENJOYED IN PURSUIT OF A BETTER RWANDA, I HOPED THAT WE MIGHT MEET AGAIN SOON TO SHARE VIEWS ON HIS BEAUTIFUL BUT TROUBLED COUNTRY. RAWSON

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